(c) if so, which are these States and what steps are being taken to ask those States for its immediate implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCESAND PENSIONS (SHRISURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (c) The Central Government has already taken action for the implementation of various provisions of the Act by public authorities under it. The State Governments also are under a statutory obligation to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Act. The Central Government, however, has requested the State Governments to ensure speedy and full implementation of the Act by public authorities under their control.

According to information presently available 17 State Governments have set up State Information Commissions and made appointments thereto. Efforts will continue to be made by the Central Government to persuade all State Governments to ensure full compliance with the provisions of the Act.

Revival of certain printing presses

† *165. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that printing presses at Kolkata, Shimla, Chandigarh, Gangtok and Stationery Office and Central Forms Centres at Kolkata are without work for the last many years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the efforts being made by Government to revive them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. These units are executing works as per requirement.

(c) The Government has taken following decisions about the Government Presses/Units:—

(i) Press at Temple Street, Kolkata and Santragachi, Howrah to be modernized at a cost of Rs. 240.15 lakh and Rs. 413.95 lakh respectively;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(ii) The press at Shimla to be modernized and converted into a production-cum-training centre at an estimated cost of Rs. 219 lakh;

(iii) To privatize Government of India Text Book Press, Chandigarh, with condition that employees will continue to be in service till completion of their balance service period;

(iv) Government of India Press, Gangtok to be handed over to the State Government of Sikkim, with its present liabilities and assets on mutually agreed terms and conditions.

Criticism of Power Incentive Scheme

*166. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission had criticized the Power Incentive Scheme, in so far as it did not benefit the consumer but the importer of power equipments/appliances only, by way of reduction in customs tariff; and

(b) if so, Government's response thereto by way of reviewing and revising the power policy so as to benefit the consumer, directly?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) No, Sir. As a matter of fact, there is no "Power Incentive Scheme". However, under the Mega Power Policy announced in 1995 and modified in 1998, for large projects, benefits of custom duty and excise duty waivers are available. The question was referred to Planning Commission also who have responded that they are unaware of any Planning Commission document in which such a criticism was made. Under the Mega Power Policy, organizations like NTPC Ltd. have set up projects with exemption of custom duty and excise duty and the entire benefit of reduced tariff as a result of such waiver has been transferred to consumer.

(b) In light of (a) above, the question does not arise.